

# Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support

Consumer Income

1999

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## Custodial parents numbered 13.5 million in 2000.

In the spring of 2000, an estimated 13.5 million parents had custody of 21.7 million children under 21 years of age whose other parent lived somewhere else. Of all custodial parents, 85.0 percent were mothers and 15.0 percent were fathers, proportions statistically unchanged since 1994 (Table A). Overall, about 26.2 percent of all children under 21 living in families had a parent not living in the home.

## Poverty rates declined for custodial-parent families between 1993 and 1999.

The proportion of custodial parents and their children living below the poverty level declined from 33.3 percent in 1993 to 26.1 percent in 1999, with the percentage of custodial-mother families in poverty falling from 36.8 percent to 28.7 percent.<sup>1</sup> Their rate was still approximately 2.5 times that of custodial-father families, whose proportion below poverty was 11.1 percent in 1999 (Figure 1). Despite the decline

<sup>1</sup>The March CPS collected information on income, employment, and program participation during the preceding year. The proportions of all custodial parents below poverty in 1993 and 1999 (33.3 percent and 26.1 percent, respectively) were not significantly different from the proportions of custodial mothers below poverty in each of those respective years (36.8 percent and 28.7 percent).

in poverty for custodial-parent families, the rate remained significantly higher than the rate for married-couple families with related children in 1999 (6.3 percent).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey; "Table 4. Poverty Status of Families, by Type of Family, Presence of Related Children, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2000" [www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/histpov/hstpov4.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/histpov/hstpov4.html).

**NOTE:** This report presents data on parents with children whose other parent is not living with the family. It focuses on the child support income that custodial parents reported receiving during the calendar year prior to the survey, as well as other support provided, such as health insurance and noncash support. Because child support is frequently ordered until a child is 21 years old or completes college, this report specifically includes *own* children under 21, rather than the usual definition used by the Census Bureau of children under 18 years of age. Some children living with neither biological parent, such as those living with grandparents or foster parents, may also be eligible for child support, but are not included in this report.

The source of data is the April 2000 supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides information for calendar year 1999. This supplement was repeated in April 2002, but those data are not yet available. Some of the households in the sample also participated in the March 2000 CPS, when additional supplemental information, such as income and health insurance coverage in the preceding year, was also collected. Changes to the April CPS supplement in 1994 do not allow for comparisons with CPS data collected before that year. These changes included refining the screening of potential respondents, restructuring the questionnaire to accommodate computerizing the survey, revising terminology that refers to types of child support agreements or awards, increasing the detail in questions about the amount of child support due, including overdue child support (back support) in the amount of child support due, and adding new questions on pass-through payments (child support collected for public assistance recipients by a state enforcement office, some of which passes through to recipients). All statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level. Further information on the source and accuracy of the estimates is at [www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/2000/ssrcacc.htm](http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/2000/ssrcacc.htm). Additional detailed tables are available via the Internet at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/chldsupt.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/chldsupt.html). The amount of child support payments to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients is likely under reported because some states retain some or all child support collected on behalf of children of custodial parents.

## Current Population Reports

By Timothy Grall

Demographic Programs



Table A.

## Comparison of Custodial Parent Population and Those With Child Support Awarded, Due, and Received: 1993, 1995, 1997, and 1999

(Numbers in thousands as of spring of the following year. Parents living with own children under 21 years of age whose other parent is not living in the home. Amounts in 1999 dollars)

Characteristic	1993		1995		1997		1999	
	Number	Standard error						
<b>ALL CUSTODIAL PARENTS</b>								
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>13,690</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>13,715</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>13,949</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>13,529</b>	<b>299</b>
Awarded child support.....	7,800	219	7,967	232	7,876	231	7,945	232
Percent.....	57.0	1.1	58.1	1.1	56.5	1.1	58.7	1.1
Due child support.....	6,688	204	6,958	217	7,018	218	6,791	215
Average child support due....	\$4,075	\$97	\$4,418	\$115	\$4,294	\$94	\$4,755	\$136
Average child support received.....	\$2,661	\$98	\$2,911	\$99	\$2,861	\$89	\$2,791	\$82
Received any child support...	5,070	178	5,269	190	5,282	190	5,005	185
Percent.....	75.8	1.3	75.7	1.4	75.3	1.4	73.7	1.4
Received full amount of child support.....	2,466	125	2,945	142	3,240	149	3,066	145
Percent.....	36.9	1.5	42.3	1.6	46.2	1.6	45.1	1.6
Not awarded child support.....	5,889	192	5,747	198	6,074	203	5,584	195
<b>CUSTODIAL MOTHERS</b>								
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>11,505</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>11,607</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>11,872</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>11,499</b>	<b>277</b>
Awarded child support.....	6,878	207	7,123	220	7,080	219	7,150	220
Percent.....	59.8	1.2	61.4	1.2	59.6	1.2	62.2	1.2
Due child support.....	5,913	192	6,224	206	6,342	208	6,133	204
Average child support due....	\$4,129	\$107	\$4,493	\$126	\$4,314	\$99	\$4,802	\$145
Average child support received.....	\$2,708	\$108	\$2,947	\$103	\$2,879	\$95	\$2,869	\$88
Received any child support...	4,501	168	4,742	180	4,802	181	4,578	177
Percent.....	76.1	1.4	76.2	1.4	75.7	1.4	74.6	1.5
Received full amount of child support.....	2,178	118	2,674	136	2,945	142	2,818	139
Percent.....	36.8	1.6	43.0	1.6	46.4	1.6	45.9	1.7
Not awarded child support.....	4,627	170	4,484	175	4,792	181	4,349	172
<b>CUSTODIAL FATHERS</b>								
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>2,184</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>2,077</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>118</b>
Awarded child support.....	922	77	844	76	796	74	795	74
Percent.....	42.2	2.7	40.0	2.8	38.3	2.8	39.2	2.8
Due child support.....	775	70	733	71	676	68	658	68
Average child support due....	\$3,670	\$199	\$3,777	\$215	\$4,103	\$292	\$4,315	\$376
Average child support received.....	\$2,300	\$212	\$2,613	\$348	\$2,705	\$249	\$2,062	\$199
Received any child support...	569	60	527	60	479	58	427	54
Percent.....	73.4	4.0	71.9	4.4	70.9	4.6	64.9	4.9
Received full amount of child support.....	288	43	270	43	295	45	248	42
Percent.....	37.2	4.4	36.8	4.7	43.6	5.0	37.7	5.0
Not awarded child support.....	1,262	90	1,263	93	1,281	94	1,235	92

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000.

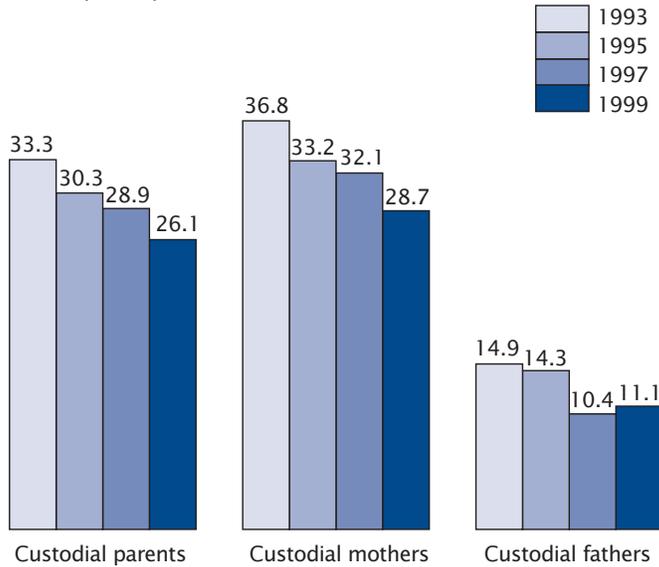
### More custodial parents worked in 1999 and participation in public programs was lower than in 1993.

Between 1993 and 1999, the proportion of custodial parents em-

ployed in full-time, year-round jobs grew from 45.6 percent to 53.7 percent. About 30 percent of custodial parents worked part-time or part-year — a proportion that did not change significantly between 1993 and 1999. Custodial mothers

were more likely than fathers to work part-time, and their full-time, year-round employment increased from 40.9 percent to 49.8 percent between 1993 and 1999. Among custodial fathers during this period, full-time, year-round employment

Figure 1.  
**Poverty Status of Custodial Parents: 1993-1999**  
 (Percent below poverty)



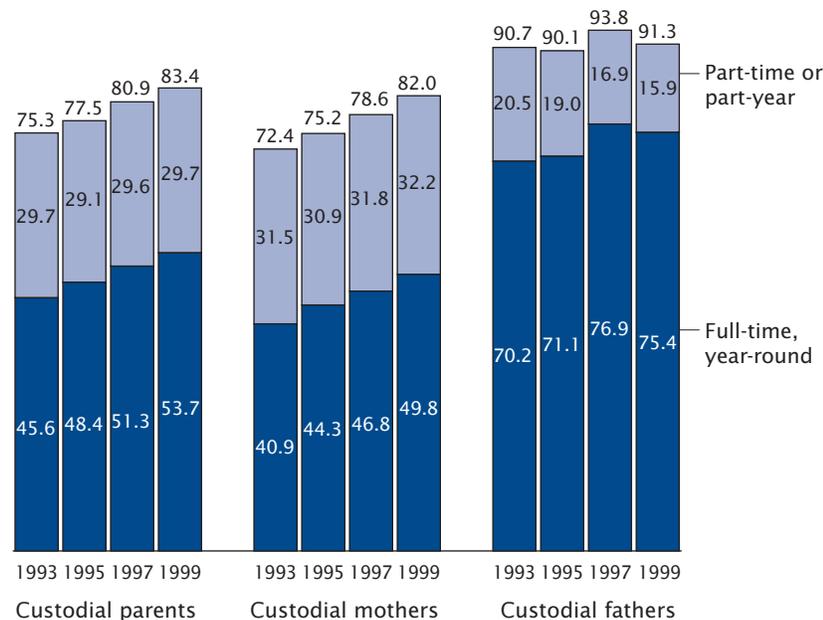
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000.

increased from 70.2 percent to 75.4 percent. (Figure 2).

As employment rates increased, participation in public assistance programs decreased from 40.7 percent to 30.0 percent for all custodial parents between 1993 and 1999.<sup>3</sup> While the rate of program participation for custodial mothers declined from 45.2 percent to 33.7 percent during that time, it was still about three times that of custodial fathers, which dropped from 17.0 percent to 9.4 percent, partly because of the differential rates of employment. The proportion of custodial mothers specifically receiving AFDC/ADC/TANF fell by more than half, from 25.6 percent to 10.5 percent between 1993 and 1999 (Internet Table 4).

**Demographic characteristics differed between custodial mothers and custodial fathers.**

Figure 2.  
**Employment Status of Custodial Parents: 1993-1999**  
 (Percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000.

In April 2000, about one-third of custodial mothers had never been married. The remaining two-thirds included 44.3 percent who were divorced or separated, and 23.6 percent who were currently married or widowed. Most custodial fathers were divorced or separated (57.1 percent), while 25.7 percent were currently married or widowed and 17.2 percent had never been married.<sup>4</sup>

Over half (54.4 percent) of custodial mothers were non-Hispanic

<sup>3</sup>Includes receiving at least one of the following: Medicaid, food stamps, public housing or rent subsidy, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), or general assistance. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), more commonly known as the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, replaced the AFDC program with the TANF program.

<sup>4</sup>The proportion of custodial mothers currently married or widowed (23.6 percent) was not significantly different from the proportion of custodial fathers (25.7 percent).

White — lower than the proportion of custodial fathers (72.3 percent). More than one-fourth (28.0 percent) of custodial mothers were Black, compared with 16.4 percent of custodial fathers; mothers were somewhat more likely to be of Hispanic origin (15.0 percent) than fathers (10.6 percent).<sup>5</sup> Over half (58.6 percent) of custodial parents of both sexes had only one child, and about 43.2 percent of custodial mothers and 31.0 percent of custodial fathers had two or more children living with them in 2000 (Internet Table 4).

### About 59 percent of custodial parents had child support agreements in 2000.

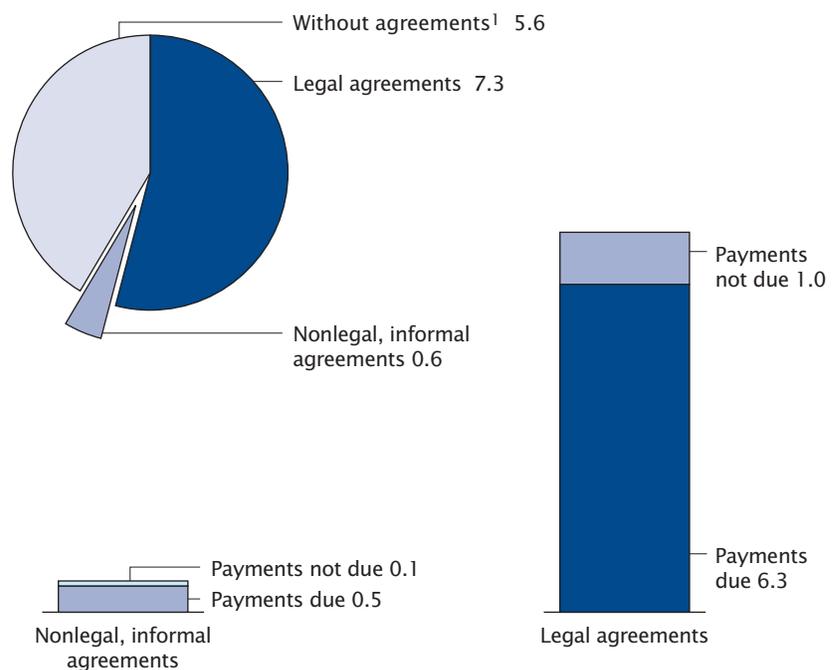
Of the 13.5 million custodial parents in April 2000, 7.9 million (58.7 percent) had some type of support agreement or award for their children. Figure 3 shows that an overwhelming majority of these agreements were reported by the custodial parent as legal (established by a court or other government entity), while only a very small proportion were nonlegal, informal agreements or understandings.<sup>6</sup> The remaining 5.6 million custodial parents had no child support agreements, including 300,000 parents where legal arrangements were pending.

When the 5.9 million custodial parents without legal agreements were asked why they did not have one, the reason most often cited was

<sup>5</sup>Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for the White and Black populations. Based on the 2000 CPS April supplement, 18.9 percent of White custodial parents and 3.3 percent of Black custodial parents were of Hispanic origin. Data for other race groups are not shown because of the small sample size in the April CPS supplement.

<sup>6</sup>A nonlegal agreement is any written or verbal agreement or understanding that was never approved or ordered by a court or government agency.

Figure 3.  
**Award Status of Custodial Parents: 2000**  
(Numbers in millions)



Numbers in millions and may not add to totals due to rounding.  
<sup>1</sup>Includes 0.2 million custodial parents with pending agreements.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2000.

that they did not feel the need to go to court or get legal agreements (31.5 percent). Among the other reasons given were that they felt the other parent could not afford to pay (24.4 percent) and that the other parent provided what they could for support (21.7 percent). See Figure 4 for a listing of all reasons.<sup>7</sup>

### Custodial mothers were more likely than fathers to have child support awards.

About 62.2 percent of custodial mothers and 39.2 percent of fathers had child support agreed or awarded to them. There was

<sup>7</sup>The proportion stating the other parent could not afford to pay (24.4 percent) was not significantly different from the proportion stating the other parent provided what they could for support (21.7 percent), and some of the other reasons listed in Figure 4.

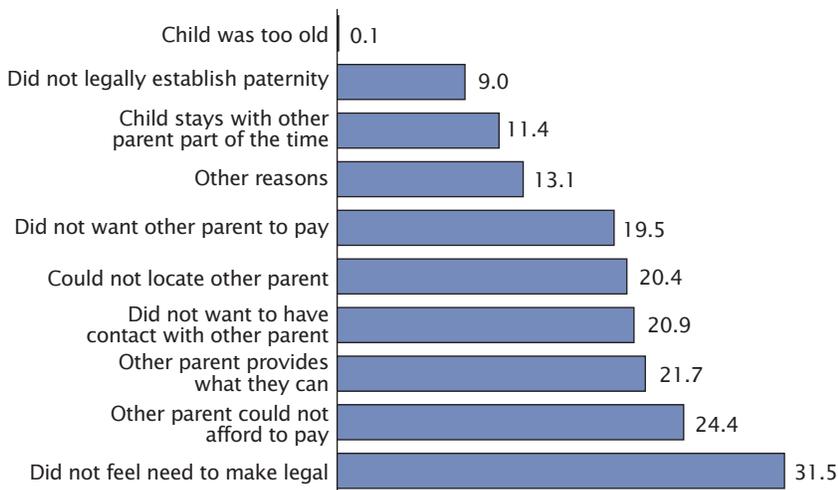
considerable variation in award rates based on the demographic characteristics of custodial mothers. Award rates were about 50 percent for custodial mothers who had income below the poverty level, who were Black or of Hispanic origin, who had less than a high school diploma, who had never married, or who were under 30 years of age. Custodial mothers who were non-Hispanic White or divorced had significantly higher award rates, (over two-thirds), as shown in Internet Table 4.

### About three-quarters of custodial parents received at least some child support payments.

About 6.8 million of the 7.9 million custodial parents with child support agreements or awards in 2000

Figure 4.  
**Reasons No Legal Agreement Established  
 for Custodial Parents: 2000**

(Percent)



Base: 5.9 million custodial parents without agreements or with informal agreements. Excludes those with pending agreements. Total of percentages exceeds 100 because respondents could list more than one reason.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2000.

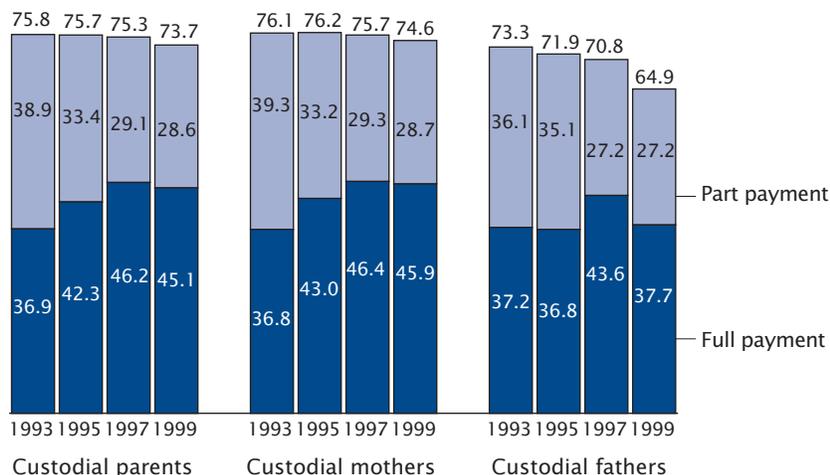
were due payments from those awards.<sup>8</sup> Among these parents who were due support in 1999, 73.7 percent received at least some payments directly from the noncustodial parent,<sup>9</sup> a proportion unchanged since 1993.

The proportion of custodial parents receiving all payments due rose from 36.9 percent to 46.2 percent between 1993 and 1997, and the 1999 proportion remained statistically unchanged at 45.1 percent. At the same time, the proportion of custodial parents receiving some but not all of the payments due fell from 38.9 percent to 29.1 percent between 1993 and 1997, and was unchanged in 1999 (See Figure 5).<sup>10</sup>

Of the 1.5 million custodial parents below poverty and due child support in 1999, 64.1 percent received at least some payments, which included those receiving the full amount and less than the full amount of support due (about 32.0 percent each), as shown in Internet Table 4.

Figure 5.  
**Custodial Parents Receiving Part or Full Child  
 Support Payments Due: 1993-1999**

(Percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000.

Custodial mothers who received any child support payments received an average (mean) of \$3,800 in 1999; those receiving the full amount due averaged \$4,900. Custodial fathers who received any child support payments averaged \$3,200 in 1999, and

<sup>8</sup>The remaining 1.1 million custodial parents with child support agreements or awards were not due child support payments because either the child(ren) were too old, the noncustodial parent died, the family lived together part of the year before interview, or some other reason.

<sup>9</sup>The term noncustodial parent refers to the parent who is not a member of the household in the sample. Some of these parents may, in fact, share custody of their children.

<sup>10</sup>The proportion of custodial parents who received full support payments in 1993 (36.9 percent) was not significantly different from the proportion receiving partial payments that same year (38.9 percent). For custodial fathers, the apparent decrease in the proportion receiving partial support and increase in the proportion receiving no support between 1993 and 1999 are not statistically significant.

those receiving full payments an average of \$4,200.<sup>11</sup> (Internet Tables 5 and 6).

### **Custodial parents reported receiving about 59 percent of child support due in 1999.**

The 6.8 million custodial parents who were due child support under the terms of agreements or current awards were due an average of \$4,800 in 1999; an aggregate of \$32.3 billion in payments due. Of this amount, about \$19.0 billion (58.7 percent) was received, averaging \$2,800 per custodial-parent family. The average amount of support received in 1999 was not significantly different, in real terms, from the average amount received in 1993. However, the average amount of child support due increased by \$700, in real terms, during that same time. Custodial mothers received \$17.6 billion of the \$29.5 billion in support that was due (59.7 percent) and custodial fathers received \$1.4 billion – 47.8 percent of the approximate \$2.8 billion they were due (Table B).

Overall, custodial parents reported receiving \$19.8 billion directly from the noncustodial parent for support of their children in 1999, which included \$900 million received by parents *without current awards* or agreements.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup>The average child support received by custodial mothers receiving any payments in 1999 (\$3,800) and custodial fathers receiving full payments (\$4,200) is not statistically significant.

<sup>12</sup>Custodial parents receiving child support *without current awards* may be those with awards for children past the age of eligibility for payments, those with awards officially starting after 1999, or those with no awards (no legal or nonlegal awards) at all.

### **Over half of child support awards had provisions for health insurance.**

About 55.8 percent of the 7.9 million custodial parents with child support agreed to or awarded to them in 1999 had provisions for health insurance for their children. Of these 4.4 million agreements, the noncustodial parent provided health insurance coverage 47.4 percent of the time. Of the 2.7 million agreements where health insurance coverage was not part of the child support award, 15.0 percent of noncustodial parents provided health care coverage for their children anyway.<sup>13</sup> For the 5.6 million custodial parents without child support awards, 11.2 percent of noncustodial parents provided health insurance. Overall, approximately 3.1 million noncustodial parents provided health insurance for their children (Internet Table 8).

### **Income was higher and poverty lower for custodial parents receiving all child support due.**

The average family income for the 3.1 million custodial parents who received all the child support they were due in 1999 was \$28,300 and their poverty rate was 15.5 percent. Among the 1.9 million custodial parents receiving only part of the child support due, annual income was lower, averaging \$22,900, and 24.6 percent were poor. For the 1.8 million custodial parents who were due child support but received none at all, average income did not differ significantly from those receiving partial child support, but their poverty rate was higher, 29.8 percent.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup>Excludes 800,000 awards made in 2000, but not due in 1999.

<sup>14</sup>The number of custodial parents due child support and receiving partial payments (1.9 million) is not significantly different from the number receiving no payments (1.8 million).

Families without child support agreements or awards had similar income and poverty rates as families receiving no child support (Internet Tables 4, 5, and 6).

### **Child support was more likely to be received by parents with custody and visitation agreements.**

A large majority (84.8 percent) of the 6.8 million custodial parents due child support payments in 1999 had arrangements for joint child custody or visitation privileges with the noncustodial parents, and over three-fourths (78.7 percent) received some support payments. However, about half (46.1 percent) of the custodial parents who were due child support but did not have joint custody or visitation arrangements received any payments.

For the 6.7 million custodial parents without agreements, or with agreements but *not* due child support, 67.3 percent had arrangements with the noncustodial parents for visitation privileges or some type of shared custody (Internet Table 9).

### **Custodial parents with agreements or awards were more likely to receive noncash support.**

Many noncustodial parents provided assistance in the form of noncash support, such as gifts or expenses. About 59.1 percent of all custodial parents received at least one type of noncash support. If the custodial parent had a child support agreement or award, nearly two-thirds (65.4 percent) received some type of noncash support, compared with 50.2 percent without awards.

Gifts for birthdays, holidays, or other occasions was the most common type of noncash support (56.9 percent), followed by clothes (39.1 percent), food or groceries

Table B.

## Demographic Characteristics of Custodial Parents by Award Status and Payments Received: 1999

(Numbers in thousands, as of spring 2000. Parents living with own children under 21 years of age whose other parent is not living in the home. Amounts in dollars)

Characteristic	Child support agreed to or awarded								
	Total	Supposed to receive child support payments in 1999							
		Total	Total	Total	Received payments			Did not receive payments	Child support not awarded
					Total	Full payment	Part payment		
<b>ALL CUSTODIAL PARENTS</b>									
Total .....	13,529	7,945	6,791	5,005	3,066	1,939	1,786	5,584	
Standard error .....	299	232	215	185	145	116	111	195	
<b>CUSTODIAL MOTHERS</b>									
Total .....	11,499	7,150	6,133	4,578	2,818	1,760	1,555	4,349	
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Family income below 1999 poverty level .	28.7	24.2	23.2	19.6	15.7	25.8	33.6	36.2	
<b>Age</b>									
Under 30 years.....	29.8	25.2	24.6	22.3	18.7	27.9	31.4	37.4	
30 to 39 years .....	38.6	40.6	41.6	41.3	40.4	42.6	42.8	35.2	
40 years and over .....	31.6	34.2	33.8	36.5	40.8	29.5	25.9	27.4	
<b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>									
White .....	68.3	74.5	75.3	78.1	80.3	74.6	67.2	58.2	
White, not Hispanic origin .....	54.4	63.2	64.4	67.5	69.9	63.8	55.0	39.8	
Black.....	28.0	21.9	21.0	18.4	16.1	21.9	28.8	38.2	
Hispanic origin (of any race) .....	15.0	11.9	11.7	11.2	10.8	11.9	13.0	20.1	
<b>Current Marital Status</b>									
Ever married .....	67.8	75.0	76.1	78.4	81.2	73.9	69.5	56.1	
Never married.....	32.2	25.0	23.9	21.6	18.8	26.1	30.5	43.9	
<b>Educational Attainment</b>									
Less than high school diploma .....	19.5	15.8	14.5	11.9	10.6	14.0	22.1	25.4	
High school graduate .....	37.8	36.9	36.3	36.2	32.8	41.7	36.7	39.2	
Less than 4 years of college .....	30.8	33.7	34.9	36.5	38.5	33.4	30.0	26.3	
Bachelor's degree or more.....	11.9	13.6	14.3	15.3	18.1	10.8	11.2	9.1	
<b>CUSTODIAL FATHERS</b>									
Total .....	2,030	795	658	427	248	179	231	1,235	
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Family income below 1999 poverty level .	11.1	9.2	9.9	12.9	13.3	12.3	4.3	12.3	
<b>Age</b>									
Under 30 years.....	11.9	8.3	7.8	6.3	6.9	6.1	10.4	14.3	
30 to 39 years .....	35.4	44.8	47.3	48.2	37.9	62.6	45.0	29.5	
40 years and over .....	52.7	46.9	45.0	45.4	55.6	31.3	44.2	56.3	
<b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>									
White .....	81.7	86.9	86.6	86.7	93.1	77.7	86.6	78.4	
White, not Hispanic origin .....	72.3	77.1	78.1	77.8	81.5	72.6	78.8	69.1	
Black.....	16.5	11.3	11.4	11.9	6.5	19.6	10.4	19.8	
Hispanic origin (of any race) .....	10.6	10.3	9.0	9.6	11.7	6.7	7.8	10.9	
<b>Current Marital Status</b>									
Ever married .....	82.8	81.8	81.9	83.1	82.2	84.9	79.2	83.5	
Never married.....	17.2	18.2	18.2	16.9	18.1	15.6	20.3	16.5	
<b>Educational Attainment</b>									
Less than high school diploma .....	14.7	13.5	13.1	15.5	15.3	15.6	8.7	15.5	
High school graduate .....	38.8	38.0	38.9	39.8	36.7	44.1	37.2	39.3	
Less than 4 years of college .....	29.5	33.4	33.1	29.3	31.0	25.7	40.7	27.0	
Bachelor's degree or more.....	17.0	15.1	14.9	15.7	16.9	14.5	13.4	18.2	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2000.

(27.0 percent), medical expenses (other than health insurance) (18.6 percent), and full or partial payments for child care or summer camp (9.2 percent), as shown in Internet Table 10.<sup>15</sup>

### **Total requests for assistance related to child support declined between 1994 and 2000.**

The number of custodial parents contacting a child support enforcement office ("IV-D office"), state department of social services, or other welfare or TANF office for child support assistance dropped from 5.8 million to 5.2 million (9.7 percent) between 1994 and 2000. Also, the total number of contacts for assistance decreased 14.9 percent during this time, from 13.0 million to 11.1 million. Contacts were made for many reasons, but the most likely were to collect child support that was due (28.7 percent), to establish a legal agreement or court award (24.3 percent), to obtain welfare

<sup>15</sup>Total of percentages exceeds 100 because more than one type of noncash support may have been received.

or public assistance (15.6 percent), and to locate the noncustodial parent (12.2 percent), as shown in Internet Table 2.

*About the survey.* Data are from the 1994, 1996, 1998, and 2000 April supplements to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The Census Bureau conducts the April supplement sponsored, in part, by the Office of Child Support Enforcement of the Department of Health and Human Services. Data from the April 1992 and earlier supplements are not directly comparable to data from 1994 and later years because of changes made to the questionnaire (see "NOTE" at the beginning of the report for more detail). Because of changes made to the allocation procedures, data for custodial parents due and receiving child support have been revised starting with the April 1994 survey. Reported estimates are different from those previously reported due to these changes.

*Accuracy of the estimates.* All survey data are subject to sampling variability, survey design flaws, respondent classification errors, and

data processing mistakes. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors, and tested all analytical statements to meet statistical standards. However, because of methodological differences, use caution when comparing these data with data from other sources. In addition, between 1994 and 1996, a new-1990-census-based sample design was phased in, and the entire CPS sample size was reduced.

Please contact, Aneesah Stephenson of the Demographic Statistical Methods Division via Internet e-mail at [dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov](mailto:dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov) for information on the source of data and the accuracy of estimates, including use and computation of standard errors. A detailed source and accuracy statement is available at: [www.census.gov/hhes/www/childsupport/source.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/childsupport/source.html).

*More information.* Detailed tables are available via the Internet at: [www.census.gov/hhes/www/chldsupt.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/chldsupt.html). For additional questions or comments, contact Timothy Grall at 301-763-6685 or via Internet e-mail at [Timothy.Scott.Grall@census.gov](mailto:Timothy.Scott.Grall@census.gov).

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